

## Proposed Zoning Amendment for 2011 Ballot

### Voluntary Small-Stream Buffer Protection

**Purpose:** To help protect Raymond's water quality by promoting education and encouraging voluntary compliance with accepted best management practices for the preservation and restoration of shoreland buffers on lower order streams in Raymond's Zone G Protected Shoreland Areas.

#### **2.100 DEFINITIONS**

**Add:**

**NATURAL VEGETATED SHORELAND BUFFER:** preserved and/or restored trees, shrubs and natural groundcover, throughout Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area.

3.320 Zone G – Conservation District  
01 Purpose:

**Add g. Encourage the preservation and/or restoration of Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area as a natural vegetated shoreland buffer to filter sediment and pollutants from runoff and thus help protect the town's water quality.**

**Add h. Discourage the following activities in Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area: any alteration of stream paths; landscaping; mowing; dumping of litter or trash, storage of grass clippings, leaves or snow; use of fertilizer and/or pesticides.**

---

## Voluntary Small-Stream Buffer Protection

### **Introduction:**

This zoning amendment adds one definition and two informational paragraphs to help guide landowners who may wish to voluntarily use best management practices to protect Raymond's water quality near headwater or smaller streams that lie on their property. This information will be provided when subdivision, site review or building permit requests come forward and will be available to the public in 2.100 and 3.320 of the zoning ordinance. *No landowner will be required to comply; this amendment is not regulatory.*

## **Sent to Warrant by vote of Planning Board on December 16, 2010**

The amendment applies only to a specific area in our zoning ordinance designated as Raymond's **Protected Shoreland Area**, which is a part of our current Zone G Conservation overlay district. (The other three types of Zone G, not affected by this amendment, are wetlands, steep slopes and those shorelands already protected by the State's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.) This ordinance does not apply to our Raymond portion of the Lamprey, Exeter and Pawtuckaway Rivers, nor to Lakes Onway or Governor's which are already covered by the state's Comprehensive Shore land Protection Act.

The applicable area, Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area, is currently designated as area within (75) feet of the seasonal high water mark of the Branch River, Dudley Brook, Fordway Brook and other perennial major brooks, streams or ponds, AND within fifty (50) feet of the high water mark of any brook, stream or pond, or having flowing water for six (6) months of the years as shown on Raymond's Water Resource Management Plan, Map 2 and Append. 2.

Currently, within Raymond's defined Shoreland Protection Area zone, Raymond allows forestry, nature trails and conservation, open space, and utilities. Also allowed by special permit are: agriculture, public recreation areas, buildings and structure, accessory buildings and non-permanent structures, roads, driveways, and expansion of non-conforming structures up to 25%. According to the area and dimensional requirements, frontage must be 200 feet and the setback is 15 feet from front, sides, and back. **None of these current regulations will change.**

This amendment will suggest basic best management practices for Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area. Although our Shoreland Protection Areas are under the recommended 100- foot minimum (at 75 feet and 50 feet), voluntary use of these BMPs, if implemented by property owners, will go a long way toward protecting our water quality by providing shoreland residents guidance, which will enable them to avoid water pollution by using a natural vegetated shoreland buffer (preserved and /or restored trees, shrubs and natural groundcover to filter sediment and pollutants from runoff.). The propoased language also provides information on activities to avoid, such as: any alteration of stream paths; landscaping; mowing; dumping of litter or trash, storage of grass clippings, leaves or snow; use of fertilizer and/or pesticides.

### **History:**

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services are convinced that maintaining natural shoreland buffers helps filter runoff and prevent and control a town's water pollution. Eighty percent of pollutants from runoff can be filtered out using a 75 to 100-foot buffer.

This amendment rose out of a two year study funded by the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and conducted by the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission for the Town of Raymond. The study recommend extending the 250 foot state Comprehensive

**Sent to Warrant by vote of Planning Board on December 16, 2010**

Shoreland Protection Act to lower order streams; towns are authorized to do this under RSA 483-B:8.

However, the Planning Board, in reviewing this study, felt that the regulation recommended was too broad and too inflexible given the current anti-regulatory climate in Raymond and given the fact that the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act regulations are still working their way into public understanding and acceptance. Most of all, the planning board felt that public education is critical so that people truly understand the relationship between shoreland buffers and clean water.

This amendment takes one small step toward public education, by placing the shoreland buffer best management practices within the zoning ordinance, where citizens and developers can begin to be aware of them, ask questions, and consider how they might wish to help protect Raymond's drinking water. If community awareness grows and voluntary compliance is successful, further shore land buffer regulation may be unnecessary.